**Statement of Objectives**

**David Vasquez**

I am writing about my desire to pursue my master’s degree in the College of Forestry at Oregon State University. My long term plan is to become a tenure track Professor engaged in innovative and meaningful research. One of the reasons I am applying to the College of Forestry is the exciting variety of research available in the College and the innovative techniques being utilized to conduct this research. In this statement I hope to briefly address my goals, unique background and my research interests.

I have a number of goals that I hope to accomplish during the pursuit of my master’s degree. All of these are related to my long term plans of pursuing a PhD and then a position as a tenure track professor at a leading research university. My main goal as a graduate student in the College of Forestry is to more clearly define my research in a way that benefits my graduate advisor and opens long term research opportunities. As part of this I hope to be able to be engaged in research that leads to the opportunity for publication or presentation at an academic conference. If possible I would also like to be engaged in the grant writing process. During my first master’s degree I was able to co-author and win an additional research grant with my graduate advisor and found the process very beneficial. Finally, I hope to be active and engage in the College getting to know faculty, staff and other graduate students.

My background is a little unique and I hope that it can work to increase my success in the College. Currently I am working as a Software Developer at Cambia Health Solutions. My master’s degree in the College of Engineering was funded by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and involved developing software for digital radiation detection. During graduate school I was asked to be an Instructor and have taught courses in the College of Business and College of Agriculture Science at both OSU and LBCC. I have also gained a thesis based MBA and hope I could leverage some of the social based research skills into my research in the College of Forestry.

The reason I am interested in the Forest Ecosystem and Society program is my interest in the research. An example of the type of research that I am fascinated by is the work being conducted in the Terrestrial Ecosystem Research and Regional Analysis group. Another example is the work being conducted by Professor Betts to develop species distribution models. I feel that in the future the ability to apply more advanced computational methods related to artificial intelligence, data processing and machine learning will open up the ability to pursue questions that would have been impossible to answer before.